

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 1 (Currently Amended). A computer implemented method for the formation of
2 dynamic alliances between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly
3 pursue specific market opportunities comprising the steps of:
4 maintaining a database storing registered vendor capabilities;
5 receiving ~~an initial~~ a request for proposal from a customer;
6 translating the request for proposal into demanded capabilities;
7 accessing said database and matching demanded capabilities with
8 registered vendor capabilities;
9 generating a plurality of sets of vendors which meet the demanded
10 capabilities;
11 ~~allowing a vendor to form~~ accepting from registered vendors not
12 having all demanded capabilities a coalition of vendors which meet demanded
13 capabilities, said coalition of vendors being formed through creation of sub-
14 requests by dividing ~~a received initial~~ the request for proposal into a plurality
15 of sub-requests to be responded to by other vendors with no restriction on a
16 number of levels of such divisions thereby creating a request for ~~a~~ proposal
17 tree having coalition alternatives at each level of the request for proposal tree;
18 managing the request proposal tree by controlling access to contained
19 information;
20 selecting a preferred coalition from coalition alternates at each level of
21 the request for proposal tree to respond to the request for proposal; and
22 aggregating coalitions at all levels in the request for proposal tree to
23 respond to the ~~initial~~ request for proposal.

2 (Canceled).

1 3 (Currently Amended). A computer implemented coalition formation process
2 for the dynamic alliance between multiple vendors in a marketplace
3 comprising the steps of:

4 maintaining a database storing registered vendor capabilities;
5 receiving a customer request for proposal;
6 gathering requirements needed to respond to the request for proposal;
7 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required
8 to respond to the request for proposal;
9 comparing required capabilities to registered vendor capabilities stored
10 in a said database;

11 generating a shortlist of potential vendors;
12 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the request for
13 proposal;

14 assessing by each invited vendor the request for proposal requirements
15 and identifying additional capabilities required;

16 decomposing by an invited vendor the request for proposal into a
17 plurality of sub-request for proposals, the invited vendor becoming a customer
18 submitting the sub-request for proposals;

19 gathering requirements needed to respond to the sub-request for
20 proposals;

21 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required
22 to respond to the sub-request for proposals;

23 comparing required capabilities to vendor capabilities stored in a
24 vendor database;

25 generating a shortlist of potential vendors to respond to the sub-request
26 for proposals;

27 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the sub-
28 request for proposals;

29 assessing by the vendor submitting the sub-request for proposals

30 received from vendors;
31 forming a coalition of vendors responding to the sub-request for
32 proposals; and
33 presenting a proposal to the customer.

1 4 (Currently Amended). A system for the formation of dynamic alliances
2 between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly pursue specific
3 market opportunities comprising:
4 means for receiving ~~an initial~~ a request for proposal from a customer;
5 means for translating the request for proposal into demanded
6 capabilities;
7 a database storing registered vendor capabilities;
8 means for accessing said database and matching demanded capabilities
9 with registered vendor capabilities to generate a plurality of sets of vendors
10 which meet the demanded capabilities;
11 input means for accepting from registered vendors not having all
12 demanded capabilities a coalition of vendors which meet demanded
13 capabilities, said coalition of vendors being formed through creation of sub-
14 requests by dividing the ~~initial~~ request for proposal into a plurality of sub-
15 requests to be responded to by and inviting other vendors ~~to respond~~ with no
16 restriction on a number of levels of such divisions thereby creating a request
17 for proposal tree having coalition alternatives at each level of the request for
18 proposal tree;
19 means for managing the request for proposal tree by controlling access
20 to contained information;
21 means for selecting a preferred coalition from coalition alternates at
22 each level of the request for proposal tree to respond to the request for
23 proposal at that level; and
24 means for aggregating coalitions at all levels in the request for

25 proposal tree to respond to the ~~initial~~ request for proposal.

5 (Canceled).

1 6 (Previously Presented). The system recited in claim 4, further comprising
2 means for establishing access control privileges to coalition members of a
3 coalition, the access control privileges applying to sharing of common
4 resources and services available to the coalition.

1 7 (Previously Presented). The system recited in claim 4, wherein the means for
2 selecting selects members from vendors in the database and from coalitions
3 formed by vendors in the database with other vendors not in the database.

1 8 (Previously Presented). The system recited in claim 4, further comprising
2 means for providing common services to members of a coalition.

1 9 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of establishing access control privileges to coalition members of a
3 coalition, the access control privileges applying to sharing of common
4 resources and services available to the coalition.

1 10 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 1, wherein the step of
2 selecting selects members from vendors in a database and from coalitions
3 formed by vendors in the database with other vendors not in the database.

1 11 (Previously Presented). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising
2 the step of providing common services to members of a coalition.